

54. (New) A recording device according to Claim 53, wherein the attribute information includes exclusive user information.

55. (New) A recording device according to Claim 53, wherein the attribute information is assigned to each image data or voice data to be recorded in the recording medium.

56. (New) A recording device according to Claim 53, wherein the attribute information includes file name constituting method information.--

REMARKS

Claims 13 through 15, 17, 18, 21 through 40, and 45 through 56 are pending in the subject application, the independent claims being Claims 13, 14, 17, 21, 27, 33, 37, 45, 49 and 53. Claims 19, 20 and 41 to 44 have been canceled. Claims 13 to 15, 17, 21 to 25, 27 to 31 and 33 to 40 have been amended.

In the Official Action, Claims 13 to 15, 17, 18 and 20 to 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,899,581 (Kawamura) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,796,428 (Matsumoto), and Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as unpatentable over the Matsumoto '428 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,737,491 (Allen). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 19 and 41 to 44

have been canceled, and Claims 13 to 15, 17, 21 to 25, 27 to 31 and 33 to 40 have been amended herein even more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention.

The present invention relates to a novel recording device and method. In one aspect, as recited in Claim 13, the recording device comprises constituting method holding means for holding, in a memory detachable from the recording device, constituting method information related to at least one of an image data file and a voice data file, where the constituting method information comprises user information exclusive to the user and recorded in the detachable memory in advance of a photographing operation. The device further comprises mode setting means for setting a photographing recording mode, and file name determining means for automatically determining a file name of image data or voice data according to information selected depending on a photographing recording mode set by the mode setting means from the user exclusive information held in the constituting method holding means, during a recording operation of the image data or voice data, where the image data or voice data is recorded in the detachable memory holding the constituting method information.

Claims 14, 17, 21, 27, 33 and 37 recite similar features with respect to a recording device or method.

In each aspect, an advantage inherent in the structure or method is that attribute information exclusive to the user can be changed for each detachable recording media. Thus, one user can manage his/her voice or image files without interference by other users.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Kawamura '581 patent relates to a photographing-mode-dependent image data recording method in a digital camera using hierarchical storage to record still images at a different level than sequential images, and discloses a photographing system that adds externally input photographer information. However, Applicant submits that the Kawamura '581 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above discussed features of the present invention. Rather, Applicant submits that the Kawamura '581 patent merely discloses a system in which a file name and directory are made in accordance with a selected photographing mode, where the form of the attribute information is predetermined as a form peculiar to the device. Nowhere does the Kawamura '581 patent disclose or suggest at least the recited features relating to user attribute information prerecorded in a detachable memory or recoding media, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

The Matsumoto '428 patent relates to an electronic photography system, and discloses a system including an information inputting device for adding attribute data to an image data. However, Applicant submits that the Matsumoto '428 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above discussed features of the present invention. Nor is the Matsumoto '428 patent believed to add anything to the Kawamura '581 patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 13, 14, 17, 21, 27, 33 and 37 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 18, 22 to 26, 28 to 31, 34 to 36 and 38 to 40 depend from Claims 14, 21, 27, 33 and 37, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional feature in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

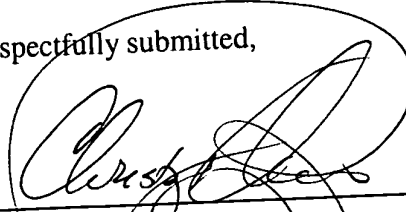
Newly presented Claims 45 to 56 have been added to provide Applicant with an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. Claims 45 to 56 recite features similar to the prior pending claims and are believed allowable over the art of record for similar reasons.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116. Applicant submits that the proposed amendments to the prior pending claims and the limited number of newly presented claims do not add significant new issues for consideration; Applicant further submits that the proposed amendments were necessitated by the Examiner's comments in the Official Action, and were not previously made because Applicant believes the prior claims are allowable. Applicant submits this Amendment as an earnest attempt to place the application in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is fully responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the Application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience respectfully are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS

13. (Twice Amended) A recording device comprising:

constituting method holding means for holding, in a memory detachable from said recording device, constituting method information related to at least one of an image data file and a voice data file, [in advance of a photographing operation,] said constituting method information comprising user information exclusive to the user and recorded in the detachable memory in advance of a photographing operation [and];

mode setting means for setting a photographing recording mode; and

file name determining means for automatically determining a file name of [the] image data or [the] voice data according to information selected depending on a photographing recording mode set by said mode setting means from the user exclusive information held in said constituting method holding means, during a recording operation of the image data or [the] voice data, the image data or voice data being recorded in the detachable memory holding the constituting method information.

14. (Twice Amended) A recording device comprising:

constituting method setting means for setting constituting method information related to at least one of an image data file and a voice data file, in advance of a recording operation of the image data file or [the] voice data file, [said] the constituting method information comprising user information exclusive to the user [and];

constituting method holding means for holding, in a memory detachable from said recording device, the [said] constituting method information set by said constituting method setting means, the constituting method information being recorded in the detachable memory in advance of the recording operation of the image data file or [the] voice data file; and

file name determining means for automatically determining a file name of the image data or [the] voice data according to the user exclusive information held in said constituting method holding means, during the recording operation of the image data or [the] voice data, the image data or voice data being recorded in the detachable memory holding the constituting method information.

15. (Amended) A recording device according to claim 14, wherein said constituting method setting means is included in an external device, and wherein said constituting method setting means communicates with said external device to set the [said] constituting method information in said constituting method holding means.

17. (Twice Amended) A recording device comprising:
means for attaching a detachable recording media [on] in which constituting method information related to at least one of an image data file and a voice data file is recorded in the detachable recording media in advance of a recording operation of the image data file or [the] voice data file, [said] the constituting method information comprising user information exclusive to the user, and for recording the image data or [the] voice data; and

file name determining means for reading a data file in which the user exclusive information recorded on said detachable recording media is stored, and for automatically determining the file name of the image data or [the] voice data according to the user exclusive information read from the data file, during the recording operation of the image data or [the] voice data, the image data or voice data being recorded on the detachable recording media holding the constituting method information.

21. (Twice Amended) A recording device for recording at least one of image data and voice data on a detachable recording medium, comprising:

[generation] means for generating image data or voice data to be recorded;

[determining] means for determining to-be-recorded attribute information relating to the [said] image data or [said] voice data, the [said] attribute information being exclusive to the user and generated by the user in an external device and stored in the detachable recording medium before the generation of the [said] image data or [said] voice data; and

recording means for recording the attribute information determined by said determining means, and for relating the attribute information to the [said] image data or [said] voice data generated by said generating [generation] means, the image data or voice data being recorded in the detachable recording medium storing the attribute information.

22. (Amended) A recording device according to Claim 21, wherein said determining means retrieves the [takes said] attribute information from a detachable recording medium which is set in the external device.

23. (Amended) A recording device according to Claim 22, wherein said determining means retrieves [takes] the attribute information by communicating with the external device.

24. (Amended) A recording device according to Claim 21, wherein the [said] attribute information includes exclusive user information.

25. (Amended) A recording device according to Claim 21, wherein the [said] attribute information is provided to respective files of the image data or [the] voice data to be recorded on the recording medium.

27. (Twice Amended) A recording method for recording at least one of image data and voice data on a detachable recording medium, comprising the steps of:

a generation step of [for] generating image data or voice data to be recorded;

a determining step of [for] determining and storing in the detachable recording medium to-be-recorded attribute information relating to the [said] image data or [said] voice data, the [said] attribute information being exclusive to the user and set in an external device by

the user and stored in the detachable recording media before generating the [recording said]

image data or [said] voice data; and

a recording step of [for] recording the [said] attribute information determined and
stored in said determining step, and for relating the [said] attribute information to the [said]
image data or the [said] voice data generated in said generation step, the image data or voice data
being recorded in the detachable recording media storing the attribute information.

28. (Amended) A recording method according to Claim 27, wherein said
determining step retrieves the [takes said] attribute information from a detachable recording
medium set in the external device.

29. (Amended) A recording method according to Claim 28, wherein said
determining step retrieves the [takes said] attribute information by communication with the [said]
external device.

30. (Amended) A recording method according to Claim 27, wherein the [said]
attribute information includes exclusive user information.

31. (Amended) A recording method according to Claim 27, wherein the [said]
attribute information is provided to respective files of the [said] image data or [said] voice data to
be recorded on the recording medium.

33. (Twice Amended) A recording device for recording at least one of image data and voice data on a detachable recording medium, comprising:

[generation] means for generating image data or voice data to be recorded on the recording medium;

[setting] means for setting the form of to-be-recorded attribute information relating to the [said] image data or [said] voice data, the form of the attribute information being exclusive to the user and set by the user and stored in the detachable recording medium before the generation means generates the image data or [the] voice data to be recorded;

attribute information recording means for causing the recording device to store the form of the attribute information set by said [the] setting means in [a] the detachable [storage] recording medium; and

data recording means for recording the attribute information, according to the form stored in the [said] detachable storage medium, on the recording medium and relating it to the image data or the voice data, the image data or voice data being recorded on the detachable storage medium.

34. (Amended) A recording device according to Claim 33, wherein the [said] attribute information includes exclusive user information.

35. (Amended) A recording device according to Claim 33, wherein the [said] attribute information is provided to respective files of [said] image data or [said] voice data to be recorded on the recording medium.

36. (Amended) A recording device according to Claim 33, wherein the [said] attribute information includes process information regarding a file name.

37. (Twice Amended) A recording method for recording on a detachable recording medium at least one of image data and voice data, comprising the steps of:

- a generation step of [for] generating image data or voice data to be recorded;
- a setting step of [for] setting a form of to-be-recorded attribute information, and relating it to the [said] image data or [said] voice data, the form of the attribute information being exclusive to the user and set by the user and stored in the detachable recording medium before generating the image data or [the] voice data to be recorded;
- an attribute information recording step of [for] providing [the] a recording device [to store] that stores the form of the attribute information set by said setting step in the [a] detachable recording medium; and
- a recording step of [for] recording the attribute information, according to the form stored in the detachable storage medium, on a recording medium, and relating the attribute information to the image data or [the] voice data, the image data or voice data being recorded on the recording medium storing the attribute information.

38. (Amended) A recording method according to Claim 37, wherein the [said] attribute information includes exclusive user information.

39. (Amended) A recording method according to Claim 37, wherein the [said] attribute information is provided with respect to files of the image data or [the] voice data to be recorded on the recording medium.

40. (Amended) A recording method according to Claim 37, wherein the [said] attribute information includes process information regarding a file name.